

"Uriel and Satan" displays Mr. Haydon's knowledge and his love of grandeur.

Mr. Harding, the water-colour artist, has contributed the "Mountain Pass," deserving of the highest praise.

Among the pictures in the black hole (octagon room) are some good works; the best, by Mr. Philip, "An Ill-kept Still," is rather too melo-dramatic; the rolling of the woman's eyes, as if to court the plaudits of an audience, might be dispensed with; but the light in this painting is skilfully managed.

Among the miniature painters, Thorburn, Ross, Garrick, Newton, and Cruikshank display the finest works. Some by Thorburn are pictures.

A miniature, by Hiedmanns (761), is well worthy of notice for its beautiful finish.

There are some good specimens of sculpture, by Bell, Marshall, Weekes, and others. Nothing can be more beautiful or simple than Mr. Marshall's "First Whisper of Love," or Mr. I. Bell's "Child's Attitude." J. A. S.

PROVINCIAL WATER WORKS.

THE health of towns so much depends upon a plentiful and cheap supply of pure water, and the public at large are now so thoroughly convinced of its importance, that a company has been formed for the purpose of affording to provincial cities and towns this necessary of life. In almost all localities there exist ample sources, which require only skill and capital to make them alike valuable to the inhabitants, and profitable to those who shall render them available. In our last number we stated that a private company was being formed to establish water-works on an extensive scale at Bristol. Since then a meeting of the town-council has been held, and the propriety of the city being supplied by the corporation, instead of by a private body, was discussed.

Mr. Thomas impressed upon the council the importance of taking the subject in hand before it was too late. The docks had fallen into private hands, and now the step was lamented; they ought certainly to be the property of the city. At Manchester the people were supplied with gas by the authorities, and from the profits made by it great improvements had been effected and were still going on in the town. He contended that Bristol might be not only well supplied with water by the council, but that a profit would accrue, which could be expended in improvements.

Dr. Green thought there could be hardly a doubt that a measure would be introduced into Parliament empowering or compelling local bodies to form water works. He trusted that the council would take the subject in hand, for there was no doubt that such a work would not only be remunerative for the outlay of capital, but also that a large sum would be derived from it, to be expended in public improvements. A supply of water ought to be secured, not only for private purposes, but for the establishment of public baths, and a ready supply to be used for the extinguishing of fires. Had the gas-works been in the hands of the council a large profit would have been secured.

The Edinburgh Water Company, which, we believe, a private body, charge only four, and, in some instances, only three shillings per annum for water supplied to cottages let for less than 5*l.* per annum.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS.—The project of a metropolitan railway tunnel is said to be seriously entertained, and a prospectus has been issued, pointing out its practicability. It is proposed that this subterranean railway should commence at Hyde-Park corner, and have intermediate stations at each chief thoroughfare with a street frontage. A prospectus has been issued for the formation of a London Central Railway Terminus in the vicinity of Charing Cross, and the connection of various lines, by means of a double line of rails, adjoining the Hungerford Suspension Bridge. A South-London Suburban Railway, on the atmospheric principle, is also proposed, for the accommodation of Kennington, Stockwell, Clapham, Balham Hill, Tulse Hill, Brixton, and other rural retreats. The rage for speculating in shares is now so great, that if a railway from Hyde-Park corner to the middle of August were advertised, all the shares would be subscribed for in twenty-four hours.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF WESTMINSTER.

As some of our readers have expressed a desire to know exactly what the committee appointed February 7th stated to the public meeting on the 10th inst., alluded to in our last number, we are induced to print their report entire:—

"The committee were appointed to consider the various lines of improvement proposed to be made by new or enlarged streets in the vicinity of the Houses of Parliament, and to report to a future general meeting, and were directed by the meeting to impress on the government and the legislature the propriety of withholding their sanction from any plan for improvement which may not be approved of by the inhabitants.

The committee having by public advertisement invited communications relative to the best measures for carrying out the improvement of the neighbourhood, received several plans to promote this object.

Mr. Wason attended the committee and stated, that he would not take any step in parliament for one month. In consequence of further advertisements by the committee for plans accompanied by written statements, shewing their practicability, they were favoured with several plans, accompanied by explanations and estimates, relative to proposed lines of improvement.

The committee having solicited an interview with Sir Robert Peel upon the subject, explained to him the objects for which they were appointed, and his attention was drawn to the several plans which had been submitted, and which the committee were assured were practicable. Sir Robert stated that he would speak to Lord Lincoln upon the subject, and recommended the committee to put themselves in communication with his lordship. In conformity with this recommendation, the committee addressed a letter to Lord Lincoln, and the following correspondence ensued:—

Literary and Scientific Institution, Great Smith-street, Westminster, 18th March, 1845.

My Lord,—The Committee for the Westminster Improvements having been honoured with an interview with the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, and authorized to enter into communication with Her Majesty's Office of Woods and Forests on the subject of the proposed improvements, request to be permitted (before they solicit an interview with your lordship) to submit the various plans and calculations on which they have been induced to conclude, that no plan should be finally adopted without full consideration of all the peculiar circumstances of the improvement, and the various suggestions made by experienced architects and surveyors.—I have the honour to be, My Lord, your lordship's most obedient servant,

W. H. J. TRAIKE,

Secretary to the Westminster Improvements Committee.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Lincoln.

Office of Woods, &c., 19th March, 1845.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and beg that you will inform the Committee for the Westminster Improvements that I shall be happy to receive the plans and calculations, and will not fail to give my best attention to their details whenever the committee may favour me by sending them for my inspection.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

LINCOLN.

W. H. J. Traice, Esq., Secretary, &c.

March 22, 1845.

My Lord,—The Committee for the Westminster Improvements desire me to convey their sincere thanks for your lordship's early reply to their communication requesting permission to submit certain plans and statements, furnished to the committee for your lordship's examination.

In conformity to your lordship's kind assent to the committee's request, I am, therefore, directed to forward several plans and statements of the estimates on which such plans have been prepared, of the following architects, viz., Mr. Sidney Smirke, Messrs. Scott and Moffatt, Mr. Bardwell, Mr. Tarring, Mr. Lapidge, and Mr. Donthorn.

The committee also beg to solicit the honour of an interview with your lordship as early

after your lordship's examination of the plans and estimates as may be convenient to your lordship.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

W. H. J. TRAIKE.

Whitehall-place, 29th March, 1845.

SIR,—I have looked over the various plans for the improvement of Westminster which you have been good enough to send me, and with one at least of which I have been much pleased. The Commission for Metropolis Improvements meets on Wednesday, the 9th of April, and it will then be my duty to report to the commissioners the communications which I have received from you, and the fact of several new plans having been proposed since the report in favour of Mr. Wason's line was agreed to.

It may possibly be the wish of the commissioners to see the gentlemen composing the Committee for Westminster Improvements, and I would therefore prefer postponing any further communication upon the subject until after the meeting on the 9th of April, which I hope will not occasion any inconvenience to the Committee.

I am, Sir, &c.

LINCOLN.

To this the secretary replied, that in the event of an interview being desired a deputation would be prepared to attend the commissioners; and represented that the committee assumed that the bill before parliament would not be allowed to pass to a second reading till the further decision of the commissioners should be made.

The concluding letter was as follows:—

10th April, 1845.

SIR,—The Commissioners of Metropolis Improvements met yesterday, and agreed to the report to her Majesty in favour of the new line of street through Westminster proposed by Mr. Rigby Wason, the substance of that report having been decided upon at the last previous meeting.

I laid before the commissioners your letter, and informed them that you had sent me several plans, as substitutes for that which they had sanctioned.

The commissioners felt that they were committed to Mr. Wason's plan, and could not in fairness adopt any course which should prejudice the bill now before parliament. They therefore concluded the report with the following words:—

"Your Majesty's Commissioners, since their engagement to recommend the plan already noticed, have very recently received intimation of the existence of other plans for the improvement of the same district, which, however, by the fact of such engagement, they do not feel themselves at liberty to call for with a view to their investigation."

Under these circumstances, I shall be glad to learn from you whether it is the desire of the "Committee for Westminster Improvements" that I should return the plans to you, or that I should retain them for the present, in the event of the Commissioners being willing to examine them at some future time when Parliament shall have decided upon the bill now before it.

I am, Sir, &c.

LINCOLN.

The committee have since had several communications with the promoters of Mr. Rigby Wason's plan, who express a disposition to extend their lines of improvement as much as possible upon certain conditions, but they have not been attended with any definite result.

(Signed) W. FREEMAN, Chairman.

10th May, 1845.

With the proceedings of the Metropolis Improvement Commission, in this matter, we are far from satisfied, but, for want of space, must defer comment.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.—Upwards of 100 of the military are daily employed, in addition to the ordinary labourers, in proceeding with the works of this ancient fortress. The site of the old armoury has been nearly excavated, and concrete laid for the foundations of the new barracks. The earth taken out of the latter has been thrown over the Tower into the moat to fill it up, and it is not now intended to make it into a plantation, but into an exercise ground for the military, and a promenade for the inhabitants of the fortress.